

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJ: GOP FONMIN ON LAJES NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: (A) MEMCON FREITAS CRUZ-HARTMAN MAR 14 BRUSSELS;

(B) STATE 054891; (C) LISBON 1199; (D) LISBON 1375

SUMMARY: FONMIN PATRICIO EMPHATICALLY STATES THEMIDO'S POSITION LAST SESSION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY IN STRICT CONFORMITY WITH FONMIN'S INSTRUCTIONS. THAT POSITION UNCHANGED AND ANY SUGGESTION POLITICAL DIRECTOR FREITAS CRUZ BRUSSELS CONVERSATION HARTMAN SIGNALLED ANY CHANGE GOP POSITION IS FALSE. SPECIFICALLY IT IS FONMIN'S UNDERSTANDING NEXT MOVE UP TO US AND GOP IS NOT REPEAT NOT PREPARING DATA ON ITS NEEDS NON-MILITARY FIELDS.
END SUMMARY

1. 1. NEAR END OF DISCUSSION YESTERDAY SUMMARIZED REF (D) FONMIN TURNED TO SUBJECT LAJES NEGOTIATIONS. WHILE I COULD NOT REFRAIN FROM SOME COMMENTS I TOOK POSITION THROUGHOUT THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS WORDS ACCURATELY AND FRANKLY BUT THAT IMPOSSIBLE HAVE TWO SETS OF NEGOTIATIONS GOING ON SIMULTANEOUSLY IN TWO DIFFERENT PLACES.

2. PATRICIO'S PRESENTATION WAS MAINLY REHASH OF OLD COMPLAINTS, WITH EMPHASIS ON US FAILURE TO UNDERSTAND, OR AT LEAST TO RESPOND TO, GOP'S DESPERATE NEED FOR
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SUPPORT AGAINST POTENTIAL FOREIGN INVADERS SUPPORTED

AND SUPPLIED BY USSR AND PRC. REAL REASON I BELIEVE MATTER BROUGHT UP FOR DISCUSSION AT ALL WAS TO DELIVER CLEAR MESSAGE THAT (A) POSITION TAKEN BY THEMIDO MARCH 18 (PARA 1 REF B) WAS IN EXACT CONFORMITY FONMIN INSTRUCTIONS, (B) THOSE INSTRUCTIONS ARE STILL IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT AND AS FAR AS FONMIN IS CONCERNED NEGOTIATIONS ARE OVER, AND (C) SPECIFICALLY, ANY IMPRESSION DCM POST RECEIVED THAT BRUSSELS CONVERSATION (REF A) REPRESENTED ANY CHANGE IN THAT POSITION WAS FALSE. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT IF, AS HE HAD HEARD, DCM THINKS CURRENT GOP STANCE IN ANY WAY AFFECTED BY CURRENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS, HE IS MISTAKEN; ALL PORTUGAL FROM RADICAL LEFT TO EXTREME CONSERVATIVE RIGHT AGREES WITH GOP POSITION.

3. AS USUAL, FONMIN TREATED USG AS MONOLITH AND SHOWED NO APPRECIATION CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEMS. AFTER RESTATING THAT EXECUTIVE BRANCH DID SYMPATHIZE GOP NEEDS AND WANTED BE AS FORTHCOMING AS PRACTICALLY POSSIBLE, I MADE MY OWN SPEECH WHICH I SAID I HAD BEEN TEMPTED TO MAKE EVER SINCE FIRST INTERVIEW. AS ADMITTED NEWCOMER IT SEEMED CLEAR TO ME THAT GIVEN PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE ITS OFFICIALS SIMPLY CANNOT COMPREHEND WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE TALK ABOUT PROBLEMS WITH US CONGRESS. THEY THINK WE ARE MERELY MAKING EXCUSES AND THAT IT IS RIDICULOUS FOR A STRONG GOVERNMENT TO LET A LEGISLATURE CROSS UP ITS FOREIGN POLICY. I SAID THAT FOR ANY AMERICAN PRESIDENT, APPEALING TO A CONGRESS CONTROLLED BY THE OPPOSITE PARTY, TO ATTEMPT TO GET A UNANIMOUS VOTE, SUCH AS THE ONE RECENTLY RECEIVED BY CAETANO, ON ANY SUBJECT, EVEN OPPOSITION TO COMMON COLD, WOULD BE INCONCEIVABLE. I SAID THAT, WHILE NOT FAMILIAR ALL DETAILS WASHINGTON NEGOTIATIONS, I KNEW THAT ON QUESTION RELAXING ARMS EMBARGO US NEGOTIATORS HAD EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO TAKE QUESTION UP WITH MEMBERS OF SENATE IF GOP SO DESIRED, BUT HAD SUGGESTED THAT THIS MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. THIS ILLUSTRATES HOW SERIOUSLY WE HAVE TO TAKE CONGRESSIONAL PROBLEM, AND GOP WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO LEARN THAT THIS CONCERN VERY REAL AND NOT JUST AN EXCUSE.

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4. REFERRING TO FONMIN'S FLAT STATEMENT THAT HE REGARDED NEGOTIATIONS AS OVER, DRAWING ON PARA 5 REF (B) I SAID IT WAS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT US HAD INDICATED FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE ON GOP NON-MILITARY REQUIREMENTS AND WAS EXPECTING GOP TO STATE ITEMS OUTSIDE MILITARY FIELD OF INTEREST TO IT. FONMIN CATEGORICALLY DENIED THIS AND SAID NEXT MOVE WAS UP TO US AND GOP WAS NOT

REPEAT NOT ENGAGED IN PREPARING LIST OF NON-MILITARY REQUIREMENTS.

5. BECAUSE OF URGENCY MATTER DISCUSSED REF (D) I SUGGESTED THAT WE END TALK AT THIS POINT BUT TOLD FONMIN I WOULD REPORT OUR CONVERSATION TO WASHINGTON AS HE SUGGESTED.

6. COMMENT: I EMPHASIZE THAT MEETING INITIATED BY FONMIN AND SUBJECT OF LAJES NEGOTIATIONS BROUGHT UP BY HIM. CAN ONLY BELIEVE FONMIN THINKS FREITAS CRUZ GAVE AN INDICATION RIGID GOP POSITION WAS CRUMBLING AND WANTS TO SAY IT AIN'T SO. END COMMENT.
SCOTT

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